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'He was our hero': Church honors a man who gave his life to save 50 others

Lisa Trigg
The Tribune-Star
May 27, 2013



Hero: Grave site of Carl Ross, killed in a 1961 explosion at the local YWCA. (Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter)
Tribune-Star



Every year on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, the congregation of Lost Creek Baptist Church gathers "to remember those who have gone on before us."

This year, the memorial program took on a special meaning as those gathered remembered a man who gave his own life to save 50 others more than 50 years ago in Terre Haute.

Carl Ross died Sept. 19, 1961 when a bomb exploded at the Terre Haute YWCA on North Seventh Street.

Ross, the 63-year-old janitor of the building, discovered a ticking box inside the building, and warned the women staying there to evacuate the facility. They did, but Ross was trying to get the bomb out of the building when it went off at 7:05 a.m. He was the only casualty of the incident.

Dawn Ross, great niece of Carl Ross — her grandfather and Carl's father were brothers — shared the story of her ancestor during Sunday's service. She said she was surprised to learn about Carl, since her own father, James "Buster" Ross, was well-known for talking about family history. Dawn said she learned the story of Carl's death only a few months ago after receiving an email from James Shepard, a historical researcher of the Lost Creek community.

"I found it to be one of the most heroic family stories I had ever heard about — whether in our family or otherwise," she told the church gathering. "Here was a true American hero, who made the ultimate sacrifice and he wasn't a war hero. He was our hero, from right here in Lost Creek."

Dawn said she started researching her "great" uncle, looking up newspaper articles from the time, and talking with people who knew Carl, including his only living brother, Glynn "Leon" Ross.

"The constant comment they made was that Carl was such a good man," she said. "I couldn't get one negative tidbit about Carl. Even the articles by the newspapers mentioned that in their search to determine if Carl was the target of the bomb or if he had had any enemies, their background check revealed that he was just a good Christian man who was married, had two grown daughters, three stepsons, grandchildren and was a trustee at the Church of Christ he attended."

The mystery of who placed the bomb in the building was never solved, she said. Newspaper accounts stated that the police interviewed several people, and sent evidence to the FBI, but no one was ever charged with the bombing.

But what Dawn said stunned her the most was that there was never a monument, plaque or statue erected anywhere in Terre Haute honoring Carl Ross for saving more than 50 women who had been asleep only minutes before the bomb went off. That may have been a sign of the times, she said, alluding to the racial tension gripping America during the civil rights movement.

She called Carl Ross's actions heroic and extraordinary, because most people would think of only saving themselves if they came across a bomb at work. And she asked the audience to imagine what they would do in the same situation.

Dawn had created display boards with photos of Carl Ross and his family, and newspaper clippings about the bombing and the investigation.

Warren Ross and his sister Dorothy Ross, nephew and niece of Carl Ross, both proudly reviewed the photos with others attending the service.

Warren said that he had graduated from Indiana State University in 1961 and had moved to Detroit to take a teaching job when the bombing occurred.

"I hadn't been gone three weeks," Warren said. He recalled his uncle as a kind man who attended Lost Creek Baptist Church on Sundays and liked to visit with the large Ross family that lived in the township.

"We wished," Dorothy Ross said, "we could have found somebody who had been in the building [the morning that the bomb exploded], but we didn't know how."

Carl Ross's only surviving child, Ernestine, now resides in Grand Rapids, Mich., and was unable to make the trip for the service honoring her father.

Dawn Ross said she plans to continue publicizing the heroic actions of her ancestor — to celebrate him and tell his story — and to promote strength of character for future generations.

"Sometimes we need to look beyond the fleeting earthly superficial accolades and to look at one's heart and how God uses ordinary people to do his will," she said, "just like he did with Moses, Noah, Lazarus, Jesus Christ, and even our Carl Ross."

Reporter Lisa Trigg can be reached at 812-231-4254 or lisa.trigg@tribstar.com. Follow her on Twitter @TribStarLisa.

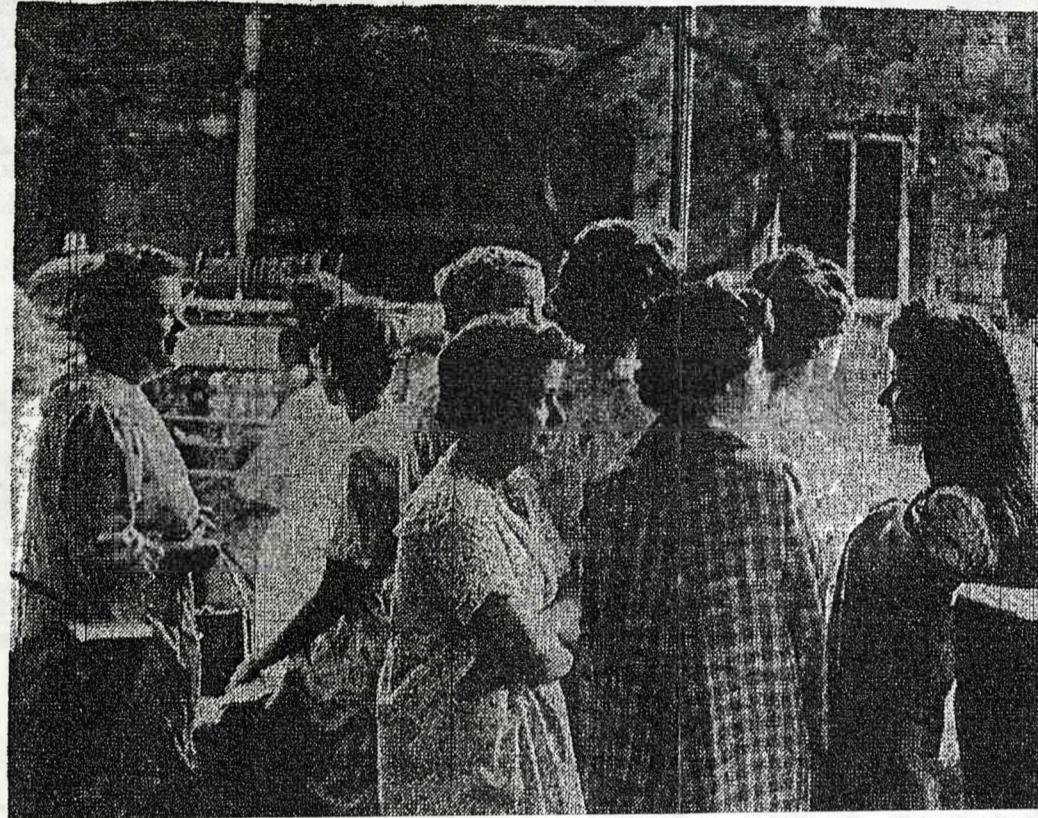
Bomb May Have Caused YW Blast

Janitor Killed After Warning 53 Occupants

(Additional Pictures on Page 2.)

U. S. Army explosive experts probed splintered debris recovered from the site of Tuesday's early-morning explosion at the YWCA building hoping to uncover a clue which would lead them to the cause of the powerful blast which killed the building's janitor and sent 51 young women residents and two YW directors tumbling out of bed and into the streets.

Working behind a roped-off and heavily policed area, the explosive-detecting team traveled to Terre Haute from Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, at the request of Police Chief Frank Riddle. They were summoned after Riddle, Assistant Fire Chief Ray McManus and Joe Lowe,



BEWILDERED RESIDENTS of the YWCA wait across the street as fire and police officials investigate an explosion which tore through the building early this morning. The blast killed the janitor, Carl Ross, who had warned the sleeping occupants.

Photo by Charles.

Shivering YWCA Girls in Night Attire Routed

By HOWARD STEVENS

I thought the Russians had

u... That was the shouted exclamation of Sandy Jobe, 21, Quincy, Ill., as she described her first thought after hearing a booming explosion that ripped through the three-story YWCA building early Tuesday morning.

McManus asserted.

This is it, I thought to myself," Miss Jobe continued. "I ran into the hallway and headed for the rear of the building. The smoke followed me but we all made it," the Indiana State College student declared.

Close at hand was Miss Jobe's friend, Rita Sackett, 21, Cloverdale, who shared the Russian bomb thought.

Residents Calm.

"Yes," she agreed. "I thought we had been bombed. It was frightening but I was also impressed by the calmness all the girls exhibited," Miss Sackett noted.

None was panicky and I felt proud of all the girls," she asserted. "I didn't even lose a pin curler," Miss Sackett exclaimed.

Dressed only in summer pajamas, she pulled a service man's jacket around her shoulders. She explained that the jacket had been tossed around her shoulders by a U. S. Air Force man as she walked out of the building.

He was certainly a gentleman. I must return it, but I don't know who he was."

Sharing the warmth of the Sears' Farm store with 49 other temporarily displaced YWCA residents, the two college girls worried most about missing their morning classes at the college and the death of the building's janitor, Carl Ross.

Use Fire Escape.

"He was the real hero," they chorused. "He warned us to get

Continued On Page 2, Column 1

Esther Heading For N. Carolina; Evacuate Coast

CAPE HATTERAS, N. C., Sept. 19.—(UPI)—Hurricane Esther churned toward the North Carolina coast today triggering the start of a mass evacuation from dangerous low-lying areas. The whirling giant carried winds up to 150 miles per hour. "Safety precautions should be started now," the Weather Bureau warned. "Some escape routes will become flooded as waters rise today and tonight."

Hurricane warnings were raised this morning from Cherry Point, N. C., northward to the Virginia Capes. Gale force winds were forecast for that portion of the coast and were forecast to increase to hurricane strength—75 miles per hour.

Gale warnings were extended northward from the Virginia Capes to Cape May, N. J., and over the south half of Chesapeake Bay. Hurricane watch continues northward from Myrtle Beach, S. C., to Cherry Point and from the Virginia Capes to Cape May.

At 8 a.m., the Weather Bureau said the big storm was 835 statute miles southeast of Cape Hatteras and bearing toward the coast at 14 miles an hour.

Rising tides and seas already were buffeting this coast line, known as the graveyard of the

The Weather

By U. S. Weather Bureau

(Weather Map on Page 3.)

8 a.m.	11	Neon	70
9 a.m.	12	2 P.M.	74
Sunset, 6:31	13	Sunset, 7:34	
River Stage, 6:33 ft.	14	stationary	

LOCAL CONDITIONS.

Highest temperature yesterday, 77; lowest temperature last night, 48. Prevailing, none.

FORECAST.

TERRE HAUTE AND VICINITY—Wednesday fair with little temperature change. Wednesday partly cloudy with a little warmer. Low tonight, 54. High Wednesday in low 60s.

INDIANA—Fair with little

Wisconsin, Texas Guard Divisions Are Activated

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—Two National Guard divisions—the 32nd Infantry of Wisconsin and the 49th Armored of Texas—are being called to active duty.

Announcement of this action was expected at an afternoon news conference scheduled by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

It was obvious he was attempting to get through the door and out of the building," McManus asserted.

McManus reported that an investigation of the immediate blast area showed nothing wrong with the building's gas mains or in the furnace room located at the rear of the building. Ironically, a telephone booth situated within a few feet of Ross shattered body was blown completely off the wall giving some indication that perhaps Ross might have faced a call-up.

The other two divisions given priority ratings and slated for reinforcement to full strength are the 26th Infantry of Massachusetts and the 28th Infantry of Pennsylvania.

Call up of the Wisconsin and Texas divisions will raise Army strength to 16 divisions. In addition, there are three combat-ready Marine divisions.

The federalization of the two National Guard units appears to set the stage for possible movement to Germany of two—and perhaps more—regular Army divisions now based in the United States.

The probability is that the two guard divisions will be subjected to intensified training to bring them to combat readiness, available for use overseas if the Berlin crisis deepens or trouble breaks out some other place.

This is the latest in a series of military buildup actions taken by the Kennedy administration as the Berlin crisis became graver and the possibility of a military showdown with Russia became more serious.

On Sept. 9 the Pentagon announced that 40,000 troops were being ordered to Europe to strengthen the 7th Army in Germany and to bring other U. S. forces to Europe to full fighting strength.

The Army also has been sending across numbers of armored troop carriers intended to give the three infantry divisions in Germany much greater mobility.

DARING ESCAPES BY 5 E. GERMANS

BERLIN, Sept. 19.—(UPI)—Five East Germans crawled over rooftops Monday night and then slid down a rope to freedom in West

NOW YOU KNOW

By United Press International
"Thug" is an Indian word for men who traveled through the country in gangs, robbing, assassinating and then burying their victims.

Rusk, Adlai Working to Keep U. N. Operating

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Sept. 19.—(UPI)—Secretary of State Dean Rusk and ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson worked urgently behind the scenes today to keep the United Nations from being paralyzed by the Soviet Union on appointment of a successor to Secretary-General Hammarskjold.

The two guard divisions, along with two others, were put on notice, Sept. 6, that they faced another body from the wreck this morning making a total of 15 dead. There is one survivor.

The assembly is expected to

give the China question a full airing, after 10 years of postponements. But it is unlikely that the problem will be taken up under the controversial title proposed by the Soviet Union.

Informed quarters said the

United States would not oppose

a China debate this year, but

would seek to refer the question to a study committee which would report back at the 1962 session of the assembly.

The Soviet move trailed a proposal by New Zealand on Sunday

that the assembly take up the question of Chinese representation.

The United States said it

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Russia Moves To Seat China At U. N. Opening

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Sept. 19.—(UPI)—The Soviet Union formally moved today for the seating of Communist China in the United Nations.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko requested that the 99-nation General Assembly place on its agenda a question titled: "Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations."

The assembly is expected to give the China question a full airing, after 10 years of postponements. But it is unlikely that the problem will be taken up under the controversial title proposed by the Soviet Union.

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Western diplomats saw little

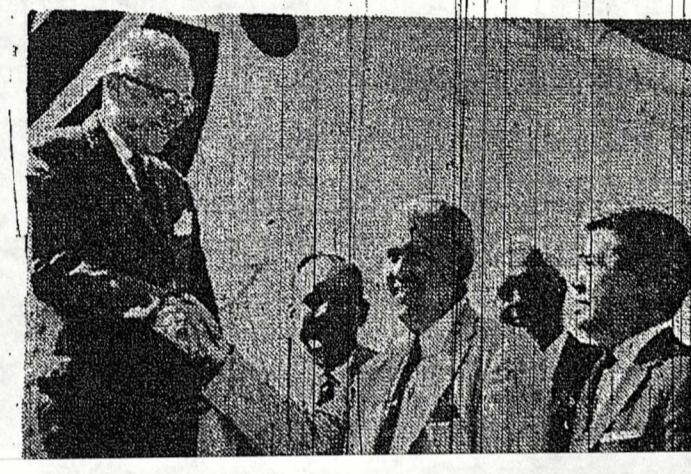
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U. N. Still Is Seeking Ceasefire in Congo

See Possible Sabotage in Death of Dag

NDOLA, Northern Rhodesia, Sept. 19.—(UPI)—A high-ranking U. N. delegation arrived in Ndola today seeking to carry through the Katanga peace talks shattered



Dag Hammarskjold's death in a plane crash.

The chief U. N. negotiator is Mahmoud Khouri, chief of civil operations in the Congo.

He flew to Ndola from Leopoldville while U. N. intelligence experts probed riddles of the wreck that killed the secretary-general.

A British government statement said a further task for the delegation will be to help identify the mutilated bodies of some of Hammarskjold's entourage.

The statement said Britain is doing all possible to facilitate contact between the delegation and President Moise Tshombe of Katanga, who pulled out Monday after an overnight stay at this neutral border town.

Tshombe returned to Katanga after vainly waiting for 24 hours for Hammarskjold to arrive for peace talks. Only late Monday did Tshombe and the world know Hammarskjold was dead in the shattered wreck of his aircraft.

Salvage workers pulled another body from the wreck this morning making a total of 15 dead. There is one survivor.

A U. N. check today disclosed there were 16 on board the plane. Two Swedish guards had been omitted from the list which showed 14 aboard.

Lt. Col. Ben Matlick, U. S. air attaché from Leopoldville, who inspected the wreck today, said he was convinced that speculation that the plane may have been shot down was groundless.

The possibility of sabotage or armed attack had drawn banner headlines in Rhodesian newspapers. The lone survivor, Harry Julian, an armed U. N. security guard, was quoted as saying a series of explosions shook the four-engine DC-8 before it plunged into a forest reserve north of town and burned.

Seasoned pilots who viewed the fire-blackened wreckage agreed with Matlick. They said it looked like typical results of a crash caused in a landing approach by loss of power or faulty instruments.

A Ndola hospital spokesman said the survivor is as comfortable as could be expected, adding: "He still is very ill and is under heavy sedation. He has not spoken since he was brought here."

Col. Maurice Barber, civil aviation director of the British-run Central African Federation, heads the inquiry into the crash. The U. N. intelligence work is

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U. S. SAVINGS BONDS purchases will be promoted by William H. Neal, assistant to Secretary of the Treasury C. Douglas Dillon and national director of the U. S. Savings Bonds Division, when he addresses a group of valley bankers and bank personnel at a 6:30 o'clock dinner at the Terre Haute House tonight.

Neal, on the extreme left, was greeted on his arrival at Hulman Field by representatives of the Wabash Valley Chapter of the National Association of Bank Auditors and Comptrollers, sponsors of the bond drive. In the group, from left, are: Don Davenport, Thomas J. Flannery of the Terre Haute Savings Bank, Robert Peterson of the Indiana State Bank and Jack Storms.

HELP THAT MAN!

TRIBUNE, Kan., Sept. 19.—(UPI)—Randy Brubbs came home from kindergarten with his first request for money.

"It's for that man who helps us if a big storm hits," he said.

"What's his name?" asked Randy's mother.

"I think it's Red."

"What's his last name?"

Cross?"

"Yep, that's it. Red Cross."

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Shivering YWCA Girls in Night Attire Routed

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out of the building. He even told us to run out the back way."

Several young women took to the building's fire escape to leave the smoke-filled building. Included among them was Mary Alice Truxal, Terre Haute, who is employed at Columbia Records.

"I literally sailed out of the hallway and onto the fire escape," Miss Truxal stated. "My only thought was concern that the fire escape was still there. It was and was I glad." she pointed.

Leona Jarvis, 19, Bloomingdale; Sandra Cloyd, 18, Marshall, and Darlene Inman, 18, Cloverdale, were occupants of rooms located on the second floor of the YWCA. Their rooms were situated directly above the blast.

An employee of the Merchants National Bank, Miss Jarvis paid particular note of the time of the explosion. She spoke while seated on a pylon displayed in the front window of the farm store.

"My first thought was that the kitchen had blown up. I didn't stop to investigate but I was sure that the stove had let go," Miss Jarvis indicated.

Three young women stuck together and ran down the back stairway. The trio, Joan Cheatham, 20, Waveland; Nina Wall, 18, Coal City; and Linda Lessing, 18, Dana, said they saw "smoke rolling out of the basement."

We realized that the explosion was in the basement and the best way to get out would be to take the back stairway. We didn't waste any time and we didn't let any grass grow under our feet."

All were impressed by the calm attitude of the building's occupants. They all shared one great concern.

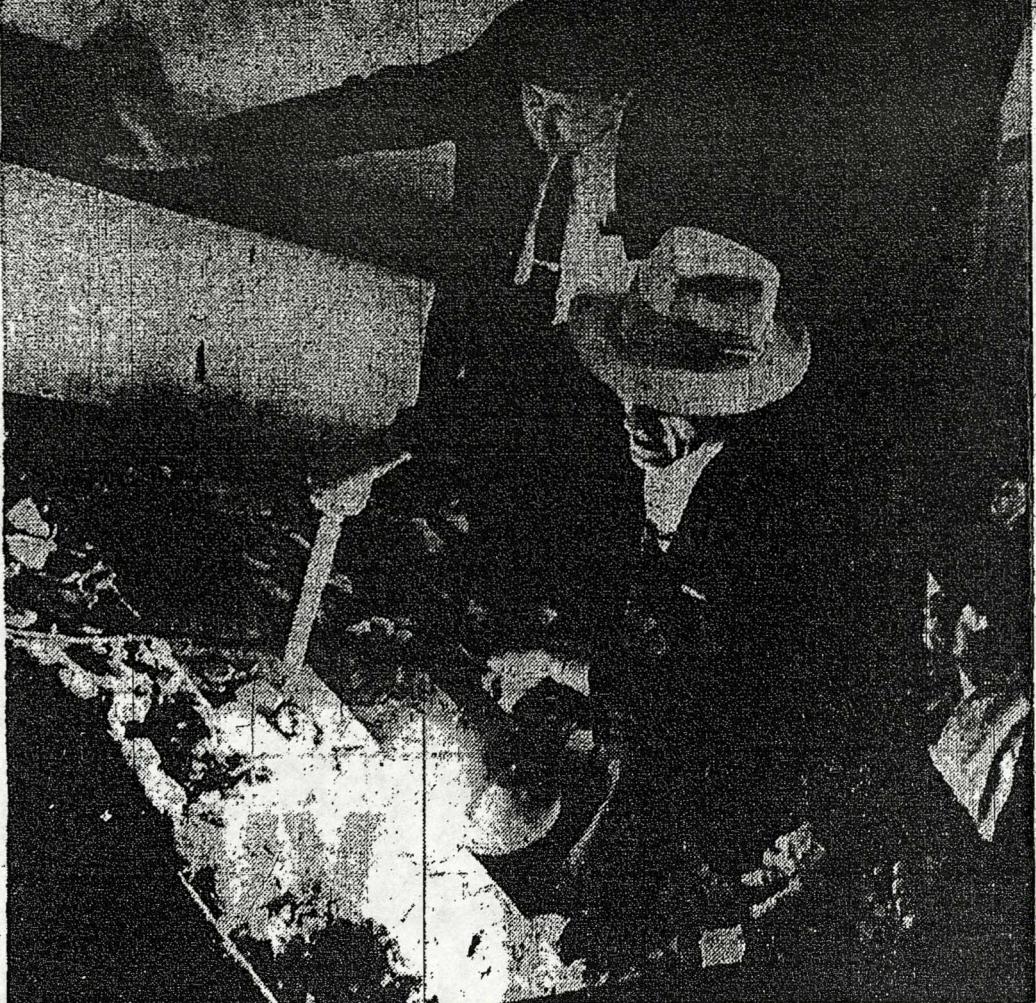
"I hope no one is in the shower."

SPAAK MEETING WITH KHRUSHCHEV

MOSCOW, Sept. 19.—Foreign Minister Paul-Henri Spaak of Belgium began a conference with Premier Khrushchev today to discuss Berlin and other problems.

Spaak arrived from Brussels Monday night on short notice at the invitation of Khrushchev evidently after the Soviet leader had read reports saying Spaak was interested in some sort of disengagement along the East-West frontier in Germany.

Tribune-Star Want Ads give dependable low cost results. Call C-2331.



IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION into the explosion was launched by city, state and federal authorities. On the scene within minutes after it occurred were Civil Defense Director J. D. Lowe, Chief of Detectives Willard Gantz and Fire Inspector Sam Short.

Janitor Killed After Warning 53 Occupants

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explosion ripped through the building.

Experts Start Probe.

Arriving in Terre Haute shortly after noon Tuesday to investigate the possibility of an explosion being set off at the building were Sgts. Thomas Dur-

itzza and Cyril Cederborg. The two men are regarded as explosive experts attached to the 64th Ordnance Division, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis.

The two men indicated that they would take some time to determine the cause of the explosion and if an explosive device was used, exactly what type of explosive material was used. They said they had no idea what caused the blast.

But several women heard a warning shout they believed was made by Ross which indicated he had found a dangerous device and was trying to carry it out of the building at the risk of his life when it blew up, shattering windows and plastering throughout the three-story building.

Asked whether a bomb might have caused the explosion, a police headquarters spokesman said "we have no way of knowing."

Investigating officers, who included local, state and federal officials, noted that with the exception of some 35 window panes blown out of the building and plaster ripped from the walls in the immediate blast area, damage from the explosion to the building proper was not expected to be considered "major." Many of the young women who occupy the building indicated Tuesday that they will stay elsewhere tonight while others noted that they will be back at their rooms as soon as their quarters are tidied up.

Sounded Alarm.

Ross, the lone victim of the explosion, was the hero as he hurried through the building minutes before the blast warning occupants to "get out of the building." Ross' body is at the Frank M. Patrick J. Ryan Funeral Home where Vigo County Coroner D. M. Ferguson was to conduct an inquest at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

A twist of irony was noted in one of the scheduled meetings to be held at the YWCA Tuesday night. A Red Cross Nursing Workshop had scheduled a program entitled: "The work of a nurse in time of disaster." The workshop sessions, tonight and Wednesday night, will be held instead in the Hoosier Room of the Hotel Deming. Mrs. Phil Powell, Nursing Service chairman announced.

Directors Present.

At the time of the explosion, two of the building's directors, Mrs. Jean Lehman and Mrs. Faye Ingle, were in the sleeping quarters when the tragedy took place. Mrs. Ingle said that Ross, who was aware of the pending

HOW TO HOLD THEM
JACKSON, Miss., Sept. 19.—(UPI)—Chancellor W. T. Horton told a group of women seeking divorces Monday, "If you used the same techniques to keep your husbands as you did to get them, you wouldn't be in this court."

McManus found Ross' body inside a south entrance and stated that Ross apparently attempted to flee from the scene after warning the occupants.

The force of the explosion, Mc-

Manus stated, apparently went to the center of the building and traveled southeastward.

Mrs. Ingle commented that she heard Ross's warning loud and strong and then she, Mrs. Lehman and the other occupants fled the scene without injury.

In order to help determine the nature of the explosion a chemist, Prof. William Kessel, was called to the scene from nearby Indiana State College.

Pumper Companies 3, 4 and 5 and Truck 1 and Assistant Chief McManus were called to the scene minutes after the explosion occurred.

Detectives George Schoffstall, Art Long, Ray Tryon and Gene Bells. Police Sgt. Charles Whitehouse and Patrolmen Charles Germain and Richard Mills were conducting the police investigation.

At least six detectives and as many fire department investigators fanned out around the

RETIRED CLAY CITY
GROCER SUCCUMBS

CLAY CITY, Ind., Sept. 19.—(Special)—Funeral services for Earl Coan, 77, retired Clay City grocer who died Monday at the Eventide Rest Home, Greencastle, will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Schoppenhorst Funeral Home.

The Rev. Jack Masters will officiate and burial will be in Maple Grove cemetery with the Clay City Masonic Lodge conducting graveside rites.

Mr. Coan retired from the grocery business here in 1942 and later served on the staff of Cary Hall at Purdue University at West Lafayette. He retired from the position in 1956. His memberships include Clay City Lodge No. 562, F&AM, of which he had been a member since 1919 and the First Presbyterian Church here.

Surviving are the widow, Emma J.; a daughter, Mrs. Dorothy E. Bergmann of North Hollywood, Calif.; three sons, Glen A. of Charlotte, N.C.; Kenneth P. of Milwaukee, and Chester C. of Greencastle, the owner of Coan Pharmacies at Greencastle and Bloomington; a sister, Mrs. Flossie Wilson of Clay City, and a brother, Charles Coan of Wakefield, Ill.

MRS. LEONA S. ARNDT

Services will be conducted in the P. J. Ryan and Sons Chapel at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday for Mrs. Leona S. Arnold of 302 North Jackson boulevard who died Monday morning with request mass to be said at 8 o'clock.

Benedict Church. Interment will be in the Ronelawn Memorial Park.

FRIENDS may call after noon Tuesday.

MRS. LYDIA MILLS

Services for Mrs. Lydia Mills, 80 years old, of 1227 South Ninth street, who died at Indianapolis yesterday morning, will be at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Ball-Porter Funeral Home.

Survivors are a sister, Mrs. Josephine Downing and Miss Emerald Maple, both of Indianapolis; and Mrs. Nellie Neal of Robinson, Ill.; two brothers, David E. Maple of Indianapolis and John E. Maple of Indianapolis.

Services will be at 1 o'clock Thursday afternoon at the Harold A. Chute Funeral Home. The Rev. Harold A. Chute will officiate and burial will be in Center Ridge cemetery. Friends may call after 4 o'clock Tuesday evening.

MRS. CLAUDE WATSON

Funeral services will be conducted today at the John E. Ridout Funeral Home in Birmingham, Ala., for Mrs. Claude Watson, mother of Mrs. George Vollmuth of 401 South Eighth street. Mrs. Watson died Sunday at 4:30 o'clock.

Survivors are two brothers, William and Arthur Dayhoff of Goshenport. Services will be at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon at the Schoppenhorst Funeral Home, Clay City, Ind., and burial will be in Macedonia cemetery in Owen county. Friends may call after 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

MRS. MARGARET N. MAPLE

SULLIVAN, Ind., Sept. 19.—(Special)—Mrs. Margaret N. Maple, a 70-year-old widow, died unexpectedly at 3:45 o'clock Monday morning at the home of a sister, Mrs. Kathryn Crichtfield of 602 South Bell street.

Survivors are two brothers, Mrs. Josephine Downing and Miss Emerald Maple, both of Indianapolis; and Mrs. Nellie Neal of Robinson, Ill.; two brothers, David E. Maple of Indianapolis and John E. Maple of Indianapolis.

Services will be at 1 o'clock Thursday afternoon at the Harold A. Chute Funeral Home. The Rev. Harold A. Chute will officiate and burial will be in Center Ridge cemetery. Friends may call after 4 o'clock Tuesday evening.

MRS. LUCY KILBY

PARIS, Ill., Sept. 19.—(Special)—Burial services for Mrs. Lucy Kilby, 48 years old, Paris, who died at the Paris Hospital Monday, will be at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

Survivors are her husband, Mr. Edgar Kilby, 50, and a daughter, Mrs. Adeline Salcedo.



CITY DETECTIVE RAY TRYON collects debris from the explosion-ruined YWCA as investigation of the mysterious blast continues. Plaster and glass from walls on one side of the building littered the floors.

DEATHS

FRANK J. UNDERWOOD

Frank J. Underwood, 70 years old, of 1638 North Twenty-first street, died at 1:40 o'clock Monday afternoon at Union Hospital. Mr. Underwood was a member of Elks Lodge No. 373, AMVETS and a member of the Kerman Grotto. Surviving are the widow, Bassie; three sons, Leon Underwood of Terre Haute, Byron Underwood of Dayton Beach, Fla., and Robert Underwood of Cleveland, Ohio; four grandchildren and a great-grandchild. The body was taken to the Anderson-Pender Memory Chapel, where friends may call after 7 o'clock Tuesday evening.

Services will be at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon at the local chapel, with interment in Pleasant Grove cemetery.

HERSCHEL A. JENNINGS

SHELBYVILLE, Ind., Sept. 19.—(Special)—Herschel A. Jennings, 65 years old, of RR 2, died at 9 o'clock Monday morning at his home, 601 S. Main Street, Terre Haute. The Rev. Fred Sullivan there the Rev. Fred Sullivan officiated and burial will be in Flock cemetery, Shelbyville.

MRS. LUCY HULETT

SULLIVAN, Ind., Sept. 19.—(Special)—Mrs. Lucy Hulett, 70 years old, died at 12:30 o'clock Monday afternoon at her home. Surviving are four brothers, Byron, Bill, Will, and RR 2, Central, who died Sunday at Indianapolis. Burial will be in Concord cemetery, White Plains, Ky. Funeral home at Nortonville, Ky. Funeral home at the Miller and Sons Funeral Home.

MRS. MARY JANE FOUTZ

SULLIVAN, Ind., Sept. 19.—(Special)—Mrs. Mary Jane Foutz, 78 years old, died at 1:30 o'clock Monday afternoon at her home. Surviving are four brothers, Byron, Bill, Will, and RR 2, Central, who died Sunday at Indianapolis. Burial will be in Concord cemetery, White Plains, Ky. Funeral home at Nortonville, Ky. Funeral home at the Miller and Sons Funeral Home.

ALBERT JESSIE TINCHER

SHELBYVILLE, Ind., Sept. 19.—(Special)—Albert Jessie Tinchier, 79 years old, died at 1:30 o'clock Monday afternoon in Mary Sherman Hospital in Shelbyville. Surviving are son Emory Tinchier, a stepson, Eddie Sargent, Elmhurst, Ill.; a stepdaughter, Mrs. C. E. Watson, Chicago; 10 grandchildren. The body will be taken to McHugh Funeral Home, Shelbyville.

MRS. ROSE PIERNON

CASEY, Ill., Sept. 19.—(Special)—Mrs. Rose Piernon, a 90-year-old Casey resident, died at 2:30 o'clock Monday afternoon at Union Hospital, Terre Haute. Services will be at 1 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Markwell Funeral Home. Interment will be in Casey cemetery. Friends may call after noon Tuesday.

MARVIN NEAL

PARIS, Ill., Sept. 19.—(Special)—Services for Marvin Neal, 17 years old, of Paris, who was killed Sunday in a shooting accident with a friend, will be in West Lawn cemetery. The Rev. R. H. Howell officiated and burial will be in West Lawn cemetery.

L. B. WAGNER

BRIDGTON, Ind., Sept. 19.—(Special)—L. B. Wagner, 68 years old, of RR 1, Bridgton, died at 10:55 o'clock Monday morning at the Culver Hospital, Crawfordsville. Surviving are a son, Gerald Wagner of Crawfordsville; a daughter, Mrs. Irene Vicoros of Indianapolis; a brother, Frank Drissell of RR 1, Brazil, and a number of nieces and nephews. Services will be at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning at the Gilmore Memorial Chapel.

Services will officiate and burial will be in Highland Lawn cemetery. Friends may call after 8 o'clock Tuesday evening.

EDWARD "ED" DRUSSLER

Edward "Ed" Drussler, 82 years old, of 502 North Eighth street, died at 11:15 o'clock Monday morning at his residence. He was a member of the Terre Haute Eagles Lodge. Surviving are a sister, Mrs. Mildred Neal, Mrs. Dorothy Cline, and Mrs. Ruth Long, all of Terre Haute; Mrs. Gerald Jennings of Farmersburg; wife of RR 2, and two sisters, Mrs. Ethel Trueblood of Fulpham and Mrs. Blanch Wilkins of Shelbyville; six grandchildren and a great-grandchild. The body was taken to the Mau Funeral Home, Rockville, where friends may call after 7 o'clock Tuesday evening. Services will be held there at 10:30 a.m. Thursday. Burial will be in the Berneke cemetery.

EDWARD "ED" DRUSSLER

Edward "Ed" Drussler, 82 years old, of 502 North Eighth street, died at 11:15 o'clock Monday morning at his residence. He was a member of the Terre Haute Eagles Lodge. Surviving are a sister, Mrs. Mildred Neal, Mrs. Dorothy Cline, and Mrs. Ruth Long, all of Terre Haute; two o'clock granddaughters and a great-grandchild. The body was taken to the Ball-Porter Funeral Home, where friends may call after 7 o'clock Tuesday evening. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday. Burial will be in the Berneke cemetery.

MRS. ZELLA A. DELP

CASEY, Ill., Sept. 19.—(Special)—Mrs. Zella A. Delp, 80 years old, died at 4:15 o'clock Monday evening at her residence, 217 North Eighth street. Surviving are the wife, Guy, a son, Paul, and a half-sister, Mrs. Roslyn Shaffer of Casey. Mrs. Ruth Kerins of San Mateo, Cal., and Mrs. Marjorie Lowry of Westfield; two sisters, Dr. Cira Rose of Cleveland, Ohio, and Mrs. Pearl Rauch of Toledo, Ohio; and a half-sister, Mrs. Helen Murphy of Marion. Services will be at 1:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the E. U. B. Church. The Rev. G. Albert Murphy will officiate and burial will be in Casey cemetery. Friends may call after noon Tuesday.

MRS. MARGARET E. EDWARDS

PARIS, Ill., Sept. 19.—(Special)—Funeral services for Mrs. Margaret Elizabeth Edwards, 46 years old, who died Sunday at the Paris Hospital, will be at 10 o'clock Monday morning at the Paris EUR Church with burial in the Casey cemetery. Friends may call at the Blum-Stewart Funeral Home. She was survived by her husband, Mr. Donald E. Edwards, and a daughter, Mrs. Wilbur C. Beam of Indianapolis; a brother, Mrs. Roslyn Shaffer of Casey. Mrs. James Williams of Armstrong, Ill.; three brothers, F. L. Henderson of Greenup, Harry Henderson of Muncie, Ind., and Joe Henderson of Westfield.

DONNA SUE ERDIE

ROSEDALE, Ind., Sept. 19.—(Special)—Services for Donna Sue Erdie, 1-day-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Erdie of Kankakee, Ill., who died Saturday at 8:30 o'clock, will be at 2:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Correll-Williams Funeral Home. The Rev. Lloyd Romenoff will officiate and burial will be in Roselawn Memorial Park, north of Terre Haute. Friends may call after 10 o'clock Tuesday evening. Also surviving are a sister, Brandi Kay, at home, and the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Correll of RR 7, Terre Haute, and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Erdie of Terre Haute.

MRS. CECELLIA C. OHLENDORF

Funeral services and burial will be in Chicago for a former Terre Hautean, Mrs. Cecelia C. Ohlendorf, 61 years old, who died at Indianapolis Saturday.

MISS LYDIA MILLS

Services for Miss Lydia Mills, 80 years old, of 1227 South Ninth street, who died at Indianapolis yesterday morning, will be at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Ball-Porter Funeral Home.

Survivors are a sister, Mrs. Kay at home, and the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Correll of RR 7, Terre Haute, and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Erdie of Terre Haute.

MRS. CLAUDE WATSON

Janitor Killed After Warning

REFERENCE
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53 Occupants

Irib Sep 19, 1961

(Additional Pictures on Page 2.)

U. S. Army explosive experts probed splintered debris recovered from the site of Tuesday's early-morning explosion at the YWCA building hoping to uncover a clue which would lead them to the cause of the powerful blast which killed the building's janitor and sent 51 young women residents and two YW directors tumbling out of bed and into the streets.

Working behind a roped-off and heavily policed area, the explosive-detecting team traveled to Terre Haute from Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, at the request of Police Chief Frank Riddle. They were summoned after Riddle, Assistant Fire Chief Ray McManus and Joe Lowe,

CIVIL Defense director, noted that the entire explosion area smelled strongly of an explosive material.

McManus indicated that the full force of the explosion centered around the blast victim, Carl Ross, 61, RR 6, who was hurled through a southside door of the three-story brick and stone YWCA building. The assistant fire chief added that he was not able to confirm reports that Ross was carrying something in his hands, but added:

Attempted to Flee.

"It was obvious he was attempting to get through the door and out of the building," McManus asserted.

McManus reported that an investigation of the immediate blast area showed nothing wrong with the building's gas mains or in the furnace room located at the rear of the building. Ironically, a telephone booth situated within a few feet of Ross' shattered body was blown completely off the wall giving some indication that perhaps Ross might have answered the telephone or had attempted to make use of the instrument seconds before the explosion ripped through the building.

Experts Start Probe.

Arriving in Terre Haute shortly after noon Tuesday to investigate the possibility of an explosion being set off at the building were Sgts. Thomas Duritz and Cyril Cederborg. The two men are regarded as explosive experts attached to the 64th Ordnance Division, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis.

The two men indicated that would take some time to determine the cause of the explosion and if an explosive device was used, exactly what type of explosive material was used. They said they would make their conclusions known to local authorities.

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Two County Public Library

WAS IT A BOMB?

Mystery Still Veils Y. W. Blast

Killing Janitor, Imperiling 53

**Victim Apparently
Died in Effort to
Remove Explosive**

BY ANDY OLOFSON
AND IRV DEVITT

Mystery last night still shrouded the powerful blast — "the equivalent of six or more sticks of dynamite" — which killed the Y. W. C. A. custodian and routed the 53 occupants of the building in downtown Terre Haute about 7 A. M. yesterday.

Carl Ross, 63 years old, victim of the blast, apparently was carrying the explosive object under his right arm when it detonated in the stairwell by the side door of the building.

+ + +

THE BLAST blew off his right arm, ripped his body open from head to hip and shredded off all his clothing.

Part of his teeth were found on the third floor balcony atop the stairwell at the south side of the building.

Three women—two occupants, the other an employe of the "Y"—passed within feet of the blast scene just minutes before the "big boom."

But no one now alive saw exactly what happened.

That's what Detectives Ray Tryon and Gene Butts, in charge of the investigation, and a flock of others have been trying to find out since.

+ + +

"OUR BEST hope for a concrete lead now would be to find some evidence of metal fragments in the body or in the crash debris," said Detective Tryon.

These are the puzzling questions:

1. Was it a bomb?
2. Was it a crank?
3. Was it a malicious "grudge" act against Ross . . . the "Y" . . . or any of its occupants.
4. Could it possibly have been an accident?

Chief of Detectives Willard Gantz said:

"We're not ruling out anything. We'll check every lead"

+ + +

CLOSEST PERSON to an eyewitness was Jack Ice, 1208 North Fifteenth Street, sipping his second cup of coffee. He said he saw glass fly out from the side of the "Y" and then heard the blast.

Local authorities, having no explosives or bomb experts here, decided after preliminary examination to call for help from the Sixty-fourth Ordnance Detachment at Fort Harrison. The experts arrived but no positive results were obtained.

+ + +

BIGGEST stumbling block was the absence of any metal fragments which probably would be present in a bomb explosion.

X-rays of the victim's body were ordered to determine whether there was any metal in the body and the autopsy by Coroner D. M. Ferguson also concentrated on this factor.

Also debris—ten boxes of it—as being sifted at police headquarters also looking for metal fragments.

On the grudge angle, Police Chief Frank Riddle said one of the persons to be investigated was a former employe discharged several years ago who had written the "Y" for references. An unfavorable report was sent to Memphis a week ago — long enough for the ex-worker, if irate enough—to come here and set off such a bomb.

DETECTIVES also planned to make a careful check to see whether anyone had a personal "grudge" against Ross.

The re-interview of the occupants was conducted to see whether any of them had been pestered or received any crank or threatening calls or letters.

All former and present employes also were to be quizzed to see whether they could provide any lead to the mystery.

Although there were no immediate indications, the accident theory still had not been ruled out last night.

An added element of mystery, raised by Detective Tryon, was whether Ross was coming up from the basement or down from the lobby just before the blast on the landing beside the side door?

"It could have been either," said the detective.

+ + +

THE ARMY experts, Sgts. Cyril Cederborg and Thomas Duritza from Fort Harrison termed it a major explosion but they could find nothing to indicate it might have been a time bomb or any other sort of bomb.

They looked in vain for any fragments of metal at the blast scene and noted there was no indication of any shattered timing device. They returned to the fort with their notes to make further evaluation of their investigation, pending outcome of the sifting of blast debris and the X-ray of the victim's body for any indication of metal.

They noted, however, there was an odor in the air after the blast indicating dynamite, gunpowder or some type of explosive.

+ + +

THE CLOSE CALL by the three women later turned out to be one of the dramatic highlights of the tragedy.

At 6:45 A. M., Miss June Williams, 20, left early by the front door to go to work at St. Anthony's Hospital.

She passed within 15 feet above where the blast occurred later.

But when Miss Williams got to work, she was sent back home because she had a cold—to see the scene of the blast she narrowly missed.

At 6:50, Miss Catherine Clark, an office secretary, rode her bicycle to work, put it away, went into her office—also about 15 feet from the blast scene—and then left to get some coffee at the Terre Haute House.

REFERENCE

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Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Blast Victim Was Active in Church Circles

Trib 9-20-1961

Carl Ross, 63-year-old victim of Tuesday's blast at the YWCA, was primarily a churchman, his relatives commented after the tragedy. For five years Ross was trustee of the Church of Christ, Twenty-first and Elm streets.

His brother, Jimmy, who for years has worked across the street from the "Y" in the Elks Club, said, however, that 20 to 25 years ago Carl worked in coal mines as a "mule driver."

Jimmy said, "I talked to him only Monday morning and he seemed in the best of health and spirits. We kidded each other quite a bit."

"The first thing I knew about this terrible thing was about 7:10 Tuesday morning when the telephone rang. One of those who called was Major Gardner, a good friend of ours. (Gardner was apparently the last one to talk to the victim before the blast.)

"Major said the only thing he was carrying was his lunch in a paper sack when he went in the back door.

"I can't imagine anyone who might have done this to him intentionally. I never knew him to have any trouble with anyone and he lived in Vigo county all



CARL ROSS

his life, having been born and reared at Lost Creek."

Survivors also include the widow, Marie; two daughters, Mrs. Kathryn Glover, Toledo, Ohio, and Mrs. Ernestine Cunningham, Grand Rapids, Mich.; three stepsons, Leonard Evans, Seattle, Wash.; Elbert Evans, Yakima, Wash., and Maynard Evans, Los Angeles; the mother, Mrs. Jane Ross, Terre Haute; four sisters, Mrs. Marguerite Roberts, Cleveland, Ohio, and Mrs. Cecil Phillips, Mrs. Wanetta Anderson and Mrs. Beulah Edwards, all of Terre Haute; three other brothers, Clyde and Bert, both of Terre Haute, and Leon Ross, Cleveland; 12 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services are pending at the Russell Funeral Home.

Community Affairs File

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

"I WAS in the coffee shop when I heard a slight blast but it didn't seem significant at the time."

When she got back to work there was a big crowd around the "Y".

Just seven minutes before the blast, Dorothy Vestal, an employee of Hulman & Co., left through the same front door, the lights in the lobby still were off at that time. (One of Ross' first duties

every day was to turn the lights on.)

Here is the best available timetable at the blast scene:

+ + +

AT 11:40 P. M. Monday—All the girls in and in their rooms, Mrs. Jean Lehman, assistant director, closed the front door.

At 6:45 A. M.—Miss Williams left by front door for work.

At 6:50 A. M.—Miss Clark arrives early for work, leaves to get a cup of coffee.

At 6:53 A. M.—Dorothy Vestal, another occupant, leaves through the front door and noted the lobby lights still out.

At 6:55 A. M.—Ross arrives for work, chats briefly with a friend, Major Gardner, 2130 North Twenty-first Street, before entering rear door of building.

+ + +

APPROXIMATELY 7 A. M.—Shattering blast in the stairwell beside the side door.

At 7:05 A. M.—Alarm at fire department.

At 7:07 A. M.—Assistant Fire Chief Ray McManus finds Ross' mangled body, face-down amid the blast debris. There was no question he was dead.

Thereafter—Continuing investigation by authorities with FBI, State Police and Civil Defense Police standing by to give any assistance needed.

+ + +

AT 4:30 P. M.—Police at headquarters start sifting 10 boxes of debris from the blast scene with a high powered magnet for any traces of metal. (First thing they found other than parts of the victim and his clothing was a penny.)

At 6 P. M.—Investigators start re-interviewing all 51 of the occupants of the "Y" for any possible lead in the mystery.

Ross, who was described as "a real nice fellow" had been considered a very dependable employee by Y. W. C. A. officials.

He had a Bible on his desk in his workshop.

Ross is survived by his wife, two married daughters and three stepsons.

Victim of Blast Church Trustee



CARL ROSS

The victim of yesterday's blast at the Y. W. C. A., Carl Ross, was "primarily a church man," according to his relatives. He had been trustee of the Church of Christ, Twenty-first and Elm Streets for five years.

However, 20 to 25 years ago he worked in the coal mines as a "mule driver," according to his brother, Jimmy Ross, who has worked for years right across the street from the "Y" in the Elks Club.

"I talked to him only yesterday morning about 7:30 to quarter to eight," said Jimmy.

"And he seemed in the best of health and spirits. We kidded each other quite a bit.

"The first thing I knew about this terrible thing was about 7:10 this morning when the telephone rang. One of those who called was Major Gardner, a good friend of ours. (Gardner was apparently the last one to talk to the victim before the blast.)

"Major said the only thing he was carrying was his lunch in a paper sack when he went in the back door.

"I can't imagine anyone who might have done this to him intentionally. I never knew him to have any trouble with anyone and he lived in Vigo County all his life, having been born and reared at Lost Creek."

YW Explosion Still Mystery

Trib 9-24-61

The all-out effort of the Terre Haute Police Department to solve the explosion last Tuesday at the YWCA in which the janitor, Carl Ross, 63, RR 6, was killed is being pressed by the department.

Meanwhile, reports from the FBI laboratories at Washington, D. C., on the analysis of the blast debris and "foreign objects found in Ross' body" are expected to be received this week.

Chief of Detectives Willard Gantz is in charge of various investigation teams appointed to the case by Police Chief Frank Riddle.

No new clues in the case were disclosed Saturday by the local officials. However, Chief Gantz pointed out that all possible explanations of the explosion are being investigated.

Murder remained as the most prevalent theory in the baffling case.

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